

## **BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT:**

### **Arbor Day Tree Planting and Celebration**

**WHAT:** A chance for **25** Davidson County public and private schools to celebrate Arbor Day and receive a FREE 1 ½ inch caliper sapling tree for planting on school grounds. Metro Beautification will supply the tree. The Nashville Tree Advisory Committee will assist your school in choosing an appropriate location for the tree and will also provide information concerning the care and maintenance of your tree. Metro staff will deliver the tree, dig the hole and plant the tree. **Schools should HAVE AN ARBOR DAY PROGRAM, and commit to continued care for the tree. Please note that new trees need to be watered throughout the year for the first 3 years.** The Arbor Day program should take place on Arbor Day and involve as many of your students as possible (see program suggestions below under details). A teacher and student representative from each school will be invited to the Metro Public Works Arbor Day celebration at Centennial Park.

**WHEN:** **You must sign up for a tree by December 1, 2006.** Trees will be available for planting the first week of March 2007.

**GOALS:**

- to have a coordinated effort supporting Arbor Day in Davidson County schools and to introduce more students to Arbor Day, tree planting & urban forestry
- to plant a specific species across school properties each year
- to involve local tree care and maintenance companies in Arbor Day tree planting celebrations

**DETAILS:** **Examples For Your Arbor Day Program** – An Arbor Day program or celebration may take many different forms. It may include the planting of a tree, watering the tree, mulching the tree, but that is not required. Often students sing songs, read poems or make a presentation. Students might also tell some of the reasons that trees are important, especially in the city. Students might participate in our new Arbor Day Essay Contest. See more about this competition on page 25. It is not necessary that the Arbor Day program be held outside – that’s nice, but if it is raining you can still celebrate. Someone from the Nashville Tree Advisory Committee or other tree care professional will attend your ceremony, as will someone from the Beautification and Environment Commission. They will be able to tell students a little bit about Arbor Day and the Sugar Maple you are planting. They will also be available to answer questions and make sure your tree is well planted so that it will grow for many years to come.

**About Arbor Day** – Arbor Day is a day set apart for planting trees. It is observed: especially by school children. Every state in

the United States celebrates Arbor Day although the date varies according to local climate. Julius Sterling Morton, an American political leader and nature lover, established the first United States observance of Arbor Day. Through his efforts, April 10, 1872, was set aside as Nebraska's first Arbor Day. It proved an enormous success; more than a million trees were planted on that first Arbor Day. **Tennessee Arbor Day falls on the first Friday in March – March 2, 2007.**

**Planting Your Tree** – To plant your tree you will need to see it first. You will want to dig a hole only as deep as the root ball. Don't pre-dig the hole; you might get it too deep. You want to plant the tree at the same depth that it was planted in the nursery. Dig the hole about two times as wide as the root ball. Hold the tree underneath the root ball, not by the trunk. Gently put it in the hole and remove all string and cut away as much of the burlap as possible. Fill the hole with the soil which was removed without adding any soil amendments and lightly pack down. Let the top of the ball stick up above soil level 1"-2". Mulch, and create a bowl to help with watering, but keep mulch away from the trunk. Water well without flooding. Don't fertilize or prune your new tree at planting time.

**Care For Your Tree** – Your newly planted tree will need one inch of water per week for the first two years of its life. That means summer and winter. Please see that your tree stays mulched and is protected from injury by mowers and string trimmers. You can encase the lower trunk in a flexible plastic pipe that has been slit lengthwise to go on the trunk. Just remove the pipe when the tree gets large enough to fill it up. It does not need to be tied to a stake to keep it upright, but sometimes a stake close by will help keep lawn mowers away.

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**Sign Us Up for the Arbor Day Tree Planting & Celebration**  
**Deadline – December 1, 2006**

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ARBOR DAY PLANS: \_\_\_\_\_

ESTIMATED # OF PARTICIPANTS: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax to: 862-5011  
or Mail to: Arbor Day Trees,  
Metro Beautification & Environment Commission  
750 S 5<sup>th</sup> St, Nashville, TN 37206